

Nationwide Campaign For 'Land Army' Will Begin This Month

Wickard Plans to Recruit Volunteer Corps for Part-Time Service

Secretary of Agriculture Wickard announced yesterday the department would inaugurate a nationwide campaign late this month to enlist 3,500,000 urban residents, high school students, unemployed farm laborers and workers employed in non-essential activities, in a "United States Crop Corps" to help meet farm labor shortages.

The farm labor shortage was said by the Secretary to constitute a serious threat to food production.

Recruiting of volunteers will be carried on in towns and cities by the United States Employment Service and in rural counties by the Agricultural Extension Service, Mr. Wickard said.

Coinciding with Secretary Wickard's announcement, Agriculture Department State directors met in Baltimore to discuss basis plans for farm labor recruitment in 17 Eastern Seaboard States.

Patriotic Motive.

Urban residents will be asked to agree, in advance of the planting and harvesting seasons, to work a certain number of week days, week ends or evenings. Volunteers, Mr. Wickard said, will be people "inspired by patriotic motive and the desire to see that a local crop is not lost by lack of labor."

In addition to urban volunteers, the department is counting on being able to recruit 275,000 seasonal agricultural workers who normally move from one crop area to another to harvest crops, but who do not have transportation facilities, because of gasoline and tire shortages. The department will provide such workers with transportation.

The department plans also to import upwards of 50,000 farm workers from Mexico to help with production of cotton, sugar beets, vegetable and citrus fruit crops in Southern and Western States.

Proposed Crop Increases.

Notwithstanding last year's bumper crops the Victory food program this year calls for the following substantial increases, department officials pointed out:

Milk, 2 per cent; all meats, 16 per cent; hogs, 27 per cent; lamb, 36 per cent; cattle and calves, 7 per cent; chickens, 28 per cent; eggs, 8 per cent; potatoes, 11 per cent; corn, 4 per cent; wheat, 4 per cent; peanut acreage, 49 per cent; commercial truck crops, 2 per cent; beans, 31 per cent, and peas, 25 per cent.

These 1943 goals must be reached, the Department of Agriculture estimates, in order that we may be able to feed our armed forces, civilian population and our allies.

In the next few weeks farmers in Virginia and Maryland and throughout the country, will sign production pledges and simultaneously make known the number of workers on hand and additional workers needed.

Last year apple crops rotted on trees and ground in Virginia orchards for the lack of apple pickers. The Agriculture Department hopes, insofar as the area surrounding Washington is concerned, to recruit emergency harvest workers from among the army of Government employees.

The Office of Education is mobilizing 650,000 non-farm high school youths. A Women's Land Army branch of the crop corps, composed of non-farm women interested in serving regularly as farm workers, will be developed by the extension service in co-operation with other agencies.

Domestic help is hard to find—but you may find it through a "Want Ad" in The Star.

LOST.

"B" GAS RATION BOOK, issued to Dr. J. H. Humber, 1000 N. 1st St., Arlington, Va. CH 1000.

LEATHER PURSE, black, lady's containing personal papers, keys and ration book, in the name of Mary Margaret, 1000 N. 1st St., Arlington, Va. CH 1000.

LOST on 15th and Pa. ave. n.w., containing money and ration book. Reward, \$10.00. Call GE 1000.

LOST, brown, on streetcar or in vicinity of 15th and Pa. ave. n.w., containing money and ration book. Reward, \$10.00. Call GE 1000.

LOST, black leather, Thors, night of Monday, 11th and 12th Sts., N.W. Identification, driver's license, important papers and ration book. Finder must return upon return of billfold and papers. Call Madeline M. Thompson, ME 1000, 1817 F St. N.W.

LOST, Woodward & Lothrop, Saturday, Feb. 13, 1943. Money, keys, ration book, and other items. Reward, \$10.00. Call GE 1000.

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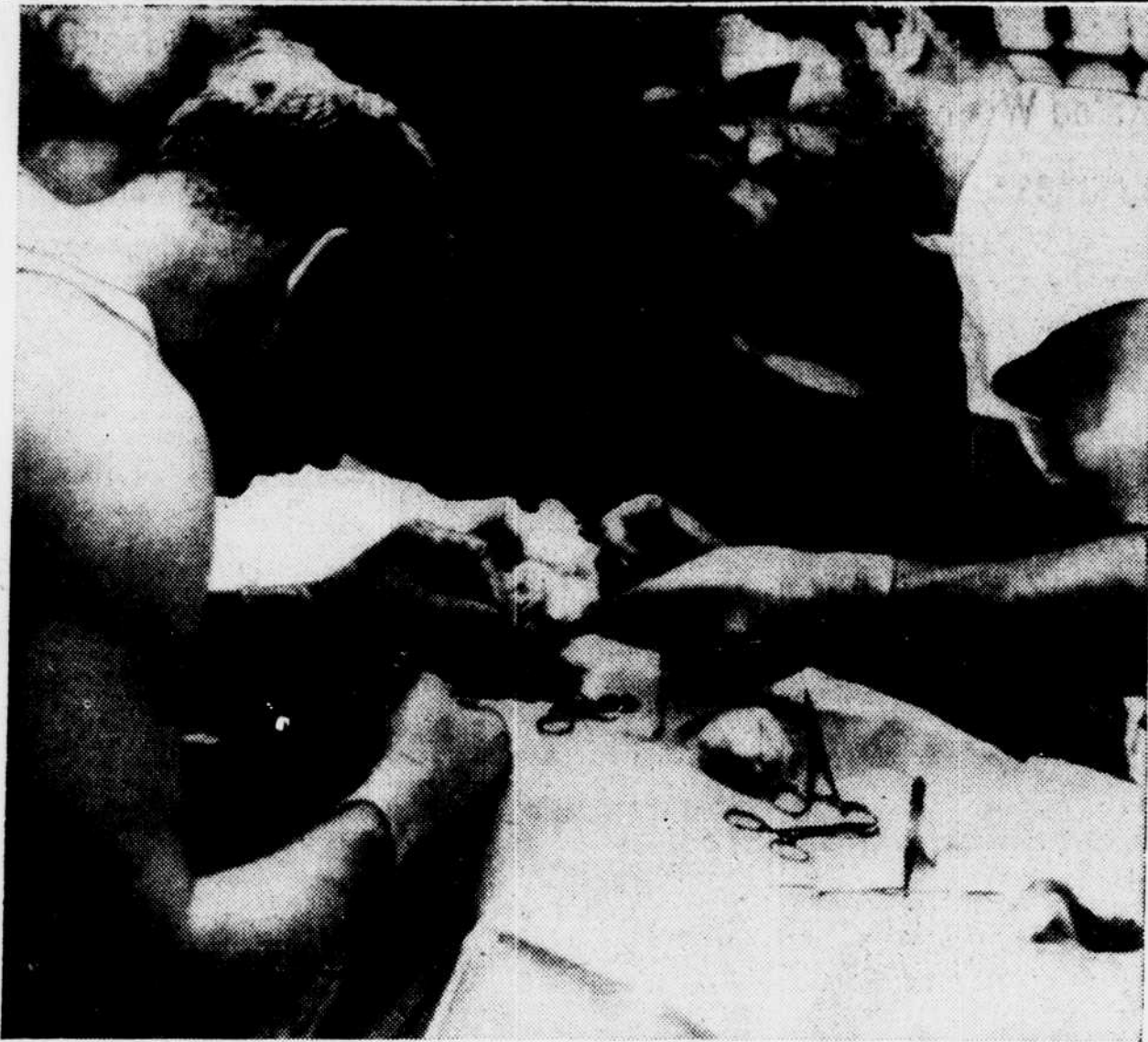
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APPENDECTOMY PERFORMED IN SUBMERGED SUBMARINE—Thomas A. Moore (left), 22, pharmacist's mate first class of Chino Valley, Ariz., with the assistance of Richard Stegall, radio-man, performed an appendectomy on Fireman George M. Platter, 21, of Buffalo, N. Y., while their submarine, on patrol in enemy waters, was submerged. Fireman Platter returned to light duties in eight days.

Sailor on Sub Removes Mate's Appendix in 5-Hour Operation

'Hit Me on Head,' Patient in Undersea Ordeal Asks as Anesthesia Wears Off

By WALTER B. CLAUSEN, Associated Press War Correspondent

PEARL HARBOR, Feb. 13.—Far below the ocean surface, not far from Tokyo, a United States submarine cruised about alone.

A white-shirted figure lay on a table in the wardroom mess. He was Fireman George W. Platter, 21, of Buffalo, N. Y., acutely ill with appendicitis. An operation was in progress.

Tenseness lined the faces of men clustered about the table. Occasionally one raised questioning eyes to the youngster who wielded the surgical instruments.

He was not a surgeon, but a chief pharmacist's mate, Thomas A. Moore, of Chino Valley, Ariz., and he never before had performed a surgical operation.

For more than five hours he worked, and finally extracted the badly inflamed appendix. The sick man was sewn up.

The appendectomy was the second such operation known to have been performed aboard a United States submarine.

A few minutes later the submarine surfaced to recharge its batteries, but instead sighted and fired a torpedo into an enemy ship and then submerged again under a heavy depth-charge attack.

Details of the operation were reported today by the officers and men of the submarine Silverfishes on return from a successful patrol of enemy waters. Fireman Platter, 21, was recovered, and as far as was known, was as fit as any member of the crew.

When Fireman Platter decided it was time his appendix should come out, the skipper, Lt. Comdr. Derend C. Burlingame of Louisville, Ky., was called in and so advised.

Moore was elected to do the job. His volunteer assistants were Ensign Donald Finch of Everett, Wash.; Gunner Robert Detmer of Bell, Calif.; Radioman Richard Stegall of Nashville, Tenn.; and Signaller Robert T. Danke of Chicago.

The executive officer, Lt. Comdr. J. H. Safford, said:

"I had a bunch of long-faced medical officers greet me. 'Let's see the incision,' they asked. 'I replied, 'No, but we had an appendectomy.'"

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Rome Explains Plan To Work Prisoners

Men Won't Be Exposed To Attacks, Reports Say

By Associated Press

BERN, Switzerland, Feb. 13.—Rome dispatches elaborated tonight on Italy's plan to employ war prisoners in industry, a move announced previously by the German radio.

The prisoners will be allotted in groups of 50 to employers "in zones not exposed to enemy attacks according to the Geneva convention," the dispatches said. "They will work the same hours as Italian labor and receive the benefit of workers' insurance."

The dispatches said the prisoners, themselves, wanted to work to relieve the monotony of inactivity. British, Australian, Yugoslav and Greek prisoners are included in the work order.

The Geneva Tribune said that a "large part" of the Italian troops captured in Africa would be inducted into the Italian army with special uniforms and their own flag.

The Berlin radio said a census of all medical practitioners in Italy would be taken in connection with the law for control of the population.

The broadcast, repeated by the Associated Press, said the census would include women doctors as well as men.

A Rome broadcast, quoting the official Italian news agency, Stefani, said two new Italian undersecretaries had been appointed. National Councilor Domenico Pellegrini, professor at Naples University, was named undersecretary for finance, and National Councilor Guido Rispoli, rector of a Rome high school, was named undersecretary for education, the broadcast said.

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